(b) whether it is also a fact that political patronage is the main cause for this pilferage; and

(c) the effective measures envisaged to check this evil and in what manner and by when?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As reported by State Power Utilities 69.87% of the power available to them for sale was billed during 2004-05 implying that 30.13% of the energy available for sale was lost, which includes losses due to technical reasons, theft, pilferage etc. Out of 69.87% which is billed 94.72% is collected.

(b) No such instance of political patronage to pilferage has been -brought to the notice of Ministry of Power by any Utility.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the transmission and distribution losses including theft are:

(i) Metering of 11KV feeders and consumer metering;

(ii) Energy accounting and auditing;

(iii) Strengthening the provisions, relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmissions distribution system under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP);

(v) Ingentivising for reduction of cash losses by State power utlities under APDRP;

(vi) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS); and

(vii) Introduction of lT applications.

Research and development work

*427. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several American biotech companies have expressed their keenness to off-shore their research and development work to India; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal recieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As these are industry to industry interactions, specific details of current negotiations are not available.

Re-delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in Delhi

*428. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of re-delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies on the basis of 2001 census of the State of Delhi;

(b) whether the Delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies of Delhi has been able to remove the disproportionate size of the constituencies; and

(c) the details of extent of all such constituencies in the State of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R.BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Delimitation Commission has intimated that it had prepared a draft proposal after due deliberations with the Associate Members nominated by the Hon'ble Speakers of the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Under section 9 (2)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the said draft proposals were published in the Gazette of India as well as the Gazette of Government of Delhi on 27.1.2006 inviting suggestions and objections from the public.

In accordance with the section 9(2)(c) of the said Act, the Delimitation Commission has also conducted Public Sittings at Talkatora Stadium on 21st and 22nd February, 2006 to hear the objections and suggestions of the public, political parties, etc. in connection with the said draft proposals in respect of NCT of Delhi. Draft proposals have also been posted in the Commission's *web-site* www.delimitation.india.com.

During the public sittings, the Commission had received a large number of representations regarding the delimitation of constituencies in the NCT of Delhi. The Commission has subsequently held a meeting with the Associate Members on 31.3.2006 to hear their views on the suggestions received at the public sittings. The Commission is in the process of examining the said suggestions for taking a final view before the issue of final orders delimiting the Parliamentary and assembly constituencies of the NCT of Delhi.

Under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002, Commission has a mandate to readjust the boundaries of Parliamentary and Assembly